



June 9, 2016

The Honorable Senator Murkowski  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Sullivan  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Congressman Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Congressman Young,

On behalf of Bering Straits Native Corporation and our shareholders, I am writing to ask for your support to ensure that affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is made available for all Alaskans, including those who reside in rural communities. It is clear that access to the internet is a foundation for quality health care, public safety, education, economic development and growth, and overall a better quality of life.

For that reason, I respectfully request that you encourage the FCC to use a substantial portion of the public monies for Alaska to link the state's off-road communities to urban Alaska with adequate, affordable, competitive high-speed broadband capability. Rural Alaskans should be entitled to internet access similar in type and price as other Alaskans and Americans. This does not require wasteful spending on duplicative facilities.

The FCC should attach conditions to receipt of public monies under its jurisdiction to ensure that all the money is expended for the most critical needs. That is, the monies should be used to provide broadband service at adequate speed and quality, with sufficient capacity, so that rural communities receive services similar to that available in urban markets. It's also important to ensure that rural Alaska have competitive broadband service offerings, because competition brings lower prices and better service.

While there continues to be progress in broadband deployment, many rural Alaskans still lack access to advanced, high-quality voice, data, graphics and video offerings. Internet service in rural Alaska is incredibly expensive and current internet speeds lag far behind the FCC's national benchmark of 25 megabits per second for downloads. This significantly impacts rural schools' ability to utilize technology in the classroom. I believe that improved internet speeds will lead to economic growth and opportunities in rural Alaska, improvements to public safety and health care, and enhanced education opportunities for our youth.



We ask that you support the FCC's imposition of specific conditions to guarantee these objectives. Competition and accountability is the only way to ensure that rural Alaska will have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet. Connecting our rural communities to the rest of Alaska, and the world, is critical for our state's continued growth and success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Schubert".

Gail R. Schubert  
BSNC President & CEO  
CC: FCC Secretary and staff